News-item captioned 'Pepsi froths at Coke entry'

3569. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the news-item captioned 'Pepsi froths at Coke entry' which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' of 29th January, 1989 stating the omission of profits by the Coca Cola company in their application which was reinforced by the Coca Cola official and state:

(a) the reasons for profits missing in the Noida application form under outflow in the Foreign Exchange Balance Sheet;

(b) whether the profit column is there in the Foreign Exchange Balance Sheet in the application forms of other Free Trade Zones;

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrepancy in the Coca Cola application form; and

(d) whether there is any restriction on how much of the profits a company can repatriate under the 100 per cent EOU rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The application form generally adopted in Export Processing Zones has a specific column for indicating outgo on profits exclusively under the foreign exchange outflow. However, the application form that was earlier in use in the Noida Export Processing Zone included a generic column for indicating "and other outgo" under the foreign exchange outflow on the basis of details to be specified. Repatriation, if any, of profits, was therefore to be included against this column and there was, therefore, no discrepancy in regard to ascertaining the foreign exchange outgo. All outflow of foreign exchange is accounted for.

(d) There is no restriction on the repatriation of profits by a unit in the Export Processing Zone in relation to the foreign ownership. All such repatriation is reckoned against the foreign exchange outgo. However, units in the Zones are required to achieve specific levels of value addition taking into account the foreign exchange inflow and outflow.

Effect of import of polyester fibres on handloom workers and cotton growers

3570. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of polyester fibres is affecting both the handloom workers and cotton growers;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to redress the hardships of the handloom workers and cotton growers; and

(c) what is the rationale for importing polyester fibres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The import of polyester fibres, the quantity of which is insignificant, is to meet the requirements of the domestic consumer industry. The import is placed on the restricted list in the Import Policy for 1988—91.

Hike in Excise duty on automobiles

3571. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent hike in the excise duty on fuel efficient automobiles below 1000 cc would adversely affect the price of Maruti cars;

(b) if yes, whether this will affect the working of the public sector undertakings; and

(c) what is the rationale in excluding the automobiles above 1000 cc from excise duty hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) In the Budget for